

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 13-17, 19-29, 33-36, and 38-40 are currently pending. Claims 7 and 37 have been canceled in the present amendment without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 4, 19, 20, 25, 29, and 36 have been amended. Support for the change to claims 1, 4, 19, 20, 25, 29, and 36 can be found throughout the specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-7, 15, 17, 19-21, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (US 6,735,155) in view of Tomita (US 7,266,753), further in view of Tachino et al. (WO2004/003910 A1).

As discussed in paragraph [0020] of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0165515, a disc player would be able to apply the same reproduction algorithm to both read-only recording medium, such as BD-ROM, and writable recording medium, such as BD-RE, if the read-only recording medium and the writable recording medium have compatible formats. The read-only recording medium has a linking area that links neighboring data sections and includes two frame sync signals while the writable recording medium has a linking area including Run-In and Run-Out areas. To distinguish the readable-only recording medium from the writable recording medium, the writing order of the frame sync signals in the linking area of the readable-only recording medium is different from the writing order of sync signals in the corresponding linking area of the writable recording medium. To the reading of the undersigned, the cited references are silent as to the recitation of claim 1, "the

computer-readable medium is a read-only recording medium and wherein a writing order of the two frame sync signals is different from a writing order of sync signals included in a corresponding linking area of a writable recording medium.” Since, none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach all the limitations of the claimed invention, Applicants assert that the Office has failed to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 19, 20, 25, and 29 contain the similar claim language as that cited above with respect to claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons indicated above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-6, 15, 17, 21 and 23 depend from claims 1 or 20, rendering them also allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 25-26, 29, and 33-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Tachino et al. Claims 9-10, 13-14, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Tomita, Tachino et al., and Sako et al. (US 6,971,024). Claims 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Tachino and Sako et al. Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Tomita, Tachino et al., and Nakagawa (US 6,879,637). Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Tomita, Tachino et al., and Fujimoto et al. (US 6,191,903).

These rejections are predicated on the above characterization of the Kuroda et al. patent, the Tomita patent, and the Tachino et al. publication, and are respectfully traversed, for the reasons pointed out above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

submit that the rejections of claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 22, 24-26, 27-29, and 33-40 lack foundation and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

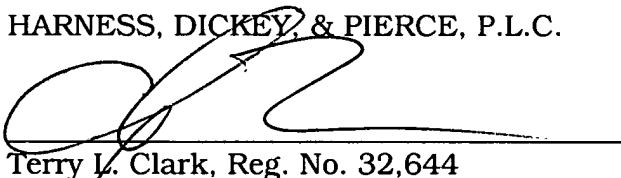
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry L. Clark', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and end.

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